

Claim Amendments

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (New) A process for the production of water-soluble or water-swellaable cationic polymers by:

- (i) free-radically initiating copolymerization of monomer mixtures in water comprising
 - (a) from 1 to 99 % by weight of a cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer,
 - (b) from 1 to 99 % by weight of a water-soluble monomer,
 - (c) from 0 to 10 % by weight of a bi- or polyfunctional, free-radically copolymerizable monomer, adjusting the amounts (a) to (c) in such a way that the resulting polymer has an overall positive charge,
in the presence of 1 to 100% of the amount of a salt which is necessary to saturate the reaction medium with said salt and
in the presence of 0.1 to 20 % by weight referred to the weight of the dispersion, of an amphoteric dispersant having an overall negative charge, and
- (ii) subsequent quaternization of the polymer if the monomer (a) employed is a non-quaternized monomer.

Claim 17. (New) The process according to claim 16, where the amphoteric dispersant is a copolymer of a at least partly hydrolyzed vinylformamide units and acrylate units.

Claim 18. (New) The process according to claim 16, where the amphoteric dispersant is a copolymer of dimethylaminoethylmethacrylamide units and acrylate units.

Claim 19. (New) The process according to claim 16, wherein the amphoteric dispersant has an overall negative charge at $\text{pH} = 6.75$.

Claim 20. (New) A dispersion comprising water-soluble or water-swellaable cationic polymers obtained by a process according to claim 16.

Claim 21. (New) A method for dewatering, comprising:

adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to water.

Claim 22. (New) A method for dewatering, comprising:

adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a dewatering process.

Claim 23. (New) A method for clarifying watering, comprising:

adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a water clarification system.

Claim 24. (New) A method for making paper, comprising:

adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a papermaking process.

Claim 25. (New) A method for producing oil, comprising:

adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to an oil field an oil field operation.

Claim 26. (New) A method for conditioning soil, comprising:

adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to soil.

Claim 27. (New) A method for processing minerals, comprising:

adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a mineral processing system.

Claim 28. (New) A method for producing a hair or skin cosmetic, comprising:

adding the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 to a hair or skin cosmetic formulation.

Claim 29. (New) A hair or skin cosmetic comprising the hair or skin cosmetic formulation produced by the method as claimed in claim 28.

Claim 30. (New) A biotechnological method comprising utilizing the dispersion as claimed in claim 20 in a biotechnological application.